CHAPTER XII.—ABORIGINAL HILL AND JUNGLE TRIBES

185. *General.*—The ordinary rules of the Code regarding relief measures will not bear application to the aboriginal hill and jungle tribes, but must be relaxed to suit their peculiar characteristics and surroundings. Relief must be taken to these people if they are reluctant to come to it; gratuitous relief must be liberal; and wherever the numbers are great the officers appointed to administer relief should be selected for their knowledge of, and sympathy with, the tribes. The aid and co-operation of resident missionaries should be utilized when forthcoming. It is also of the greatest importance that all details of the relief organization should be carefully thought out and arranged before the distress among these tribes comes to an acute pitch.

186. *Separate gangs on ordinary works.*—If members of the tribes are willing to attend the ordinary relief works, they shall, as far as possible, be formed into separate gangs on such works.

187. *Special relief measures.*—To provide for members of tribes who are unwilling to attend ordinary relief works, the following procedure shall be adopted :—

(*a*) Circles shall be formed containing four or five villages, the object being to secure relief within five miles of each village.

(*b*) The following works, which have in practice been found suitable, may be entered in the annual programmes: the making and clearing of village tanks, the construction of wells and forest roads, the construction and clearing of *nala* crossings, the making or raising of embankments, clearing fields of stones and stumps, the cutting and storage of grass, wood-cutting and the cutting of forest lines, mat-making, collection of wild produce for the market, or other industry to which the people are accustomed; and from the end of April onwards the preparation of fields and in the rains the weeding of them.

188. *Classification of those in need of relief.*—On the first warnings of scarcity, specially careful village inspection shall be made, and persons who are likely to require relief shall be divided into three classes—

(*a*) those incapable of work and requiring gratuitous relief;

(*b*) those capable of work and without resources of any kind;

(*c*) those capable of work and with some resources, but requiring partial relief.

Persons in class (*a*) shall be brought upon the gratuitous relief list, all persons showing signs of emaciation or physically capable of doing only very light nominal work being admitted to the list in addition to those eligible under section 146. Persons in class (*b*), who are unwilling to go to the ordinary relief works, shall be employed on the special works indicated in section 187. Persons in class (*c*) shall be relieved either by employment as persons in class (*b*) or by the sale of grain at specially low rates in quantities sufficient for their requirements

189. *System on works for hill tribes.*—The system to be adopted on relief works opened for these tribes shall be subject to the following special provisions :—

(*a*) the immediate management of works shall be entrusted to their own village headmen or to their natural leaders, whenever such persons are to be found and are not proved incompetent;

(*b*) as far as possible, families shall be separately tasked, and the tasks shall be low;

(*c*) payment of wages shall always be made daily and due regard be had to the provisions of sections 117 and 118.

190. *Wage and allowance scale.*—The scale for both wages and gratuitous allowances shall be fixed by Government with reference to the amount of wild

produce available for food, but shall ordinarily be that in force on famine relief works in the district and shall in no case fall short of that prescribed in section 107 by more than one-third. Wages may, when thought advisable, be given in the shape of grain. Gratuitous relief shall ordinarily be given either in grain or in cooked food.

191. *Village inspection and gratuitous relief during the rains.*—Village inspection throughout the period of famine shall be specially careful among these tribes; and gratuitous relief shall be liberally extended during the rains to all who are unable to work or to find employment.

192. *Free use of Government forest produce.*—Full permission shall be given to these people to gather, free of charge, edible products from Government forests, and fees ordinarily levied on forest produce in which they trade shall be reduced or remitted according to circumstances.

CHAPTER XIII.—RELIEF TO ARTISANS

193. *Relief to weavers.*—Distressed weavers shall, whenever possible, be given special relief in their own craft, if their sole occupation is weaving and if they are—

(*a*) unfitted by the practice of their profession and hereditary habits for hard outdoor labour, or

(*b*) physically incapable of earning a sufficient livelihood on relief works, or

(*c*) unable to submit to the labour test on relief works without risk of impairing their manual skill or the delicacy of touch necessary for their own craft.

194. *Organization of and admission to relief.*—Special relief may be organized only where the weavers reside in considerable numbers in the same town or village or in a group of adjacent towns and villages and should preferably take the form of advances at a low rate of interest to any weavers' co-operative society which may have been established in a district.

195. *Municipalities to manage relief.*—In the case of municipalities, the municipal committees should, as far as possible, be induced to finance and manage, under the direct control of the Collector, such special relief of this nature as may be called for, Government granting, if necessary, loans for the purpose at low rate of interest, if any. Otherwise the operations shall be conducted by the Collector with the help of such non-official agency as may be available, or of the committees of weavers' co-operative societies, if any.

196. *Assistance of charitable associations.*—Any famine charitable relief association which may be formed in a district may also be invited to assist by itself organizing special relief on these lines or by purchasing the manufactured cloth.

197. *Mode of administering relief.*—The relief shall be administered, as far as possible, direct to the weavers or to weavers' co-operative societies. The method may be either—

(*a*) to remunerate the weavers at a fixed rate for a fixed task, the raw material and the manufactured cloth both being the property of the relieving fund; or

(*b*) to give advances, if necessary, to the weavers for the purchase of the raw material, and to buy the woven cloth from them at the current market rate.

198. *Employment on other work in default of special relief.*—If special relief is not afforded, weavers shall be employed on light work, *e.g.*, carrying earth or digging soft soil, and shall, as far as possible, be formed into special gangs and tasked with due regard to their strength, usual occupation and mode of life.